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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Production and Marketing Administration  
Food Distribution Programs Branch  
Washington 25, D. C. .

MONTHLY FOOD SUPPLY REPORT - APRIL 1946

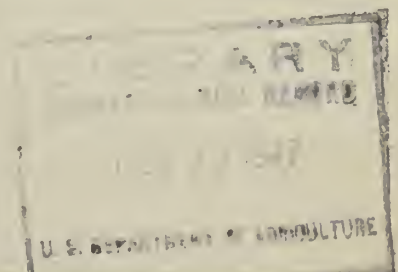
The monthly survey of the adequacy of food supplies indicated a significant change in the general food situation from a month earlier. Canned and frozen fruits, although reported generally scarce for some time, continued to become less readily available; canned and frozen vegetables are currently adequate yet generally more difficult to obtain than during early March. There was a sharp decline in the availability of fresh and cured meats. Supplies of raisins, dried beans, butter, cheese, fats and oils, rice and laundry soaps, flakes and powder, were generally scarce. Supplies of canned juices, canned green beans, Irish potatoes, cabbage, citrus fruit and chicken were generally meeting demands and supplies of sugar were generally adequate to meet ration demands. Over ten percent of the areas in all regions reported a surplus of shell eggs during early April.

The 216 reports summarized in this analysis are based on information gathered by field representatives of the Production and Marketing Administration during the first week of April at meetings of food advisory committees and by direct communication with the food trades. The number of area reports received from each of the five regions is as follows: Northeast 30, Midwest 60, South 47, Southwest 42, and West 37.

The analysis, as in the past, is divided into three parts. Part I gives a narrative summary of the month's developments. Part II gives percentage figures for each region, dividing commodities into three groups: generally scarce, generally adequate, and unbalanced. It must be remembered that these percentages are based on the number of areas reporting the situation, rather than on quantitative measures. Furthermore, each area report is given equal weight in computing the region and U.S. totals. Thus, shortage situations or differences among regions may be exaggerated. Part III shows the food situation in 28 selected localities.

The three categories of adequacy of supplies used in this survey are defined as follows:

- Scarce: Supply is less than three-quarters of current demand.
- Adequate: Supply more than three-quarters of current demand but not sufficiently in excess of such demand to cause excessive inventories.
- Surplus: Able to obtain supplies in quantities greater than demand. Inventories heavy and rapidly becoming excessive in view of current level of demand.



Fruits and Vegetables

Canned Fruits: Throughout almost all areas supplies of canned fruits were not meeting demands in early April and a larger proportion of the areas reported peaches, fruit cocktail, and pears as scarce than in the previous month. Pineapple was reported scarce in 99 percent of the areas, while peaches and fruit cocktail were reported scarce in over 95 percent of the reporting areas. Peaches were adequate in only 17 percent of the reporting areas compared with 25 percent a month earlier.

Canned Juice: Grapefruit juice, orange juice, and orange-grapefruit blended juice were adequate in all regions, and showed little change from the previous month except in the Southwest where fewer of the areas reported a surplus of grapefruit juice. Pineapple juice was reported scarce in 99 percent of the reporting areas. Tomato juice supplies, although reported adequate in 75 percent of the reporting areas, were meeting demand in a smaller proportion of the areas than in the previous month.

Canned Vegetables: Canned green and wax beans, corn, and peas continued to be generally adequate in a large proportion of the reporting areas. A slight decline in availability was reported for corn and peas as compared to early March. Canned tomatoes were reported scarce in 87 percent of the areas as compared to 83 percent the previous month, continuing the trend of the past four months.

Frozen Foods: Frozen fruits continued short of demands generally. Apricot and peach supplies currently are reported inadequate in about 65 percent of the reporting areas as compared to about 57 percent the previous month. Frozen strawberries were reported scarce in 96 percent of the areas. In the Southwest and West a smaller proportion of the areas reported scarcity than the previous month. However, a larger proportion reported scarcity in the other regions. Frozen vegetable supplies showed little change from the month earlier. Snap beans, corn, peas, and spinach were meeting demands in about three-fourths of the areas; lima beans remained generally scarce.

Dried Foods: Dried prunes were generally meeting demands. In comparison with the previous month the improvement of supplies in relation to demand in the Southwest was offset by an increase in the percentage of areas reporting scarcities in the western region. The situation with respect to raisins was approximately the same in all regions with only about one-half of the areas reporting an adequate supply. Dried beans were scarce in 83 percent of the areas reporting, which was approximately the same as in the previous month.

Fresh Foods: Oranges and cabbage were meeting demands in over 98 percent of the areas, the same situation that existed the previous month. Irish potatoes were reported adequate or surplus in all areas. In the South and Southwest they were reported surplus in 10 and 21 percent respectively of the reporting areas.

Meats, Dairy Products, Fats, Sugar, and Other Items:

Meats: Supplies of fresh and cured meats were insufficient to meet the demand in most areas reporting. A drastic decline in the proportion of areas reporting adequate supplies is apparent compared to a month earlier. Beef steaks and roasts were scarce in 86 percent of the reporting areas in April compared to 54 percent in early March. Reflecting marked declines in availability from the previous month, 91 percent of the reporting areas indicated veal was not meeting current demands, and about the same percentage of areas reported inadequate supplies of



pork loins and chops and roasts, and fresh and cured ham and shoulder. Supplies of lamb were reported scarce in 61 percent of the areas in early April compared to 2 percent in early March. Sixty percent of the areas reporting showed a scarcity of salted fat cuts, and 89 percent reported a scarcity of bacon. With the exception of bacon and salted fat cuts, most meats were more readily available in the southwest and west than in other regions. Bacon supplies continued to improve in relation to demand in the northeast, although this was offset by an increased proportion of areas with inadequate supplies in other regions. No significant change from the previous month was observed in the supply of canned meats and cold cuts. About one-half of the areas reported canned meats as adequate, and over 90 percent reported a sufficient supply of cold cuts.

Fish: Fresh and frozen fish supplies were reported adequate in 71 percent of the reporting areas. Significant improvement in supplies was apparent in all regions except the west, where the proportion of areas reporting a scarcity increased from 29 percent in March to 50 percent in April. Canned salmon, tuna and sardines continued scarce in over 90 percent of the areas.

Dairy Products: The demand for butter was not being met in 92 percent of the reporting areas. In the Midwest the availability declined from the previous month. Cheese continued to be generally scarce in all regions; however, slight improvement appeared in the south, southwest, and west. The percentage of areas reporting evaporated milk as scarce increased from 57 percent during early March to 61 percent during April with the greatest increase in the proportion of areas reporting scarcity, from 44 to 66 percent, in the northeast.

Fats and Oils: There was a continued increase in the percentage of areas reporting a shortage of margarine. For the country as a whole, only 14 percent of the areas reported supplies sufficient to meet demands. A marked decrease in the percentage of areas reporting adequate supplies was observed in the midwest region where supplies in the past were more nearly meeting demands than in other regions. Lard supplies were not meeting demands in 67 percent of the reporting areas, compared to 55 percent the previous month. All regions reported a decline in lard supplies in relation to demand. Shortening and salad oils continued scarce in over 95 percent of all areas.

Soap: Soap and washing powder were generally scarce throughout the country. No significant changes were observed from the previous month except a slight decrease in availability in the West.

Sugar: The supply of sugar was meeting the ration demand in 93 percent of the areas reporting during early April as compared to 90 percent the previous month. Supplies improved in four of the five regions, but a slightly higher percentage of the areas in the northeast reported sugar as scarce.

Other Items: During early April shell eggs were reported adequate in 82 percent of the areas. Surpluses were reported in 10 to 32 percent of the areas in each of the five regions. In the southwest and west some decreases in the percentage of areas reporting surpluses was observed. The south reported the highest proportion of surplus areas during early April, when they rose to 32 percent, compared to 22 percent the previous month. Chicken supplies continued to be adequate in almost all areas; however, for the country as a whole, the proportion of surplus areas decreased from 16 percent in March to 4 percent in April.

Rice was more difficult to obtain the first part of April than in the previous month in all regions except the northeast. For the country as a whole, 78 percent of the areas reported supplies insufficient to meet demand compared to 69 percent in early March.

## PART II - NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SITUATION BY COMMODITIES

FOODS THAT ARE GENERALLY SCARCE (A) -- reported scarce by at least one-third of the areas in all five regions. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting, and are not averages of the regional percentages.

### Percent Reporting Scarce Supplies

<u>Fruits &amp; Vegetables</u>	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>N.E.</u>	<u>M.W.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>S.T.</u>	<u>W.</u>
Canned fruit cocktail	97	97	100	100	98	86
Canned peaches	83	100	75	83	90	76
Canned pears	95	100	98	98	98	81
Canned pineapple	99	97	100	100	100	100
Canned pineapple juice	99	97	100	98	98	100
Canned tomatoes	87	100	82	81	88	72
Frozen apricots	65	83	71	64	60	47
Frozen peaches	66	83	64	66	72	50
Frozen strawberries	96	100	98	98	88	97
Frozen beans, lima	70	47	76	30	79	58
Raisins	48	60	45	43	50	51
Dry beans	83	97	73	87	90	73
<u>Meats, Dairy Products, &amp; Fats</u>						
Beef steaks	86	97	98	98	79	50
Beef roasts	31	97	96	98	69	39
Veal: steaks, chops & roasts	91	97	89	100	83	86
Pork: loin, chops, & roasts	91	97	96	98	86	78
ham and shoulder, fresh	93	100	98	96	86	86
ham and shoulder, cured	92	97	96	94	86	89
salted fat cuts	60	43	65	47	67	75
bacon	89	67	89	94	95	92
Canned salmon	97	97	100	100	98	86
Canned tuna	94	97	96	92	98	89
Canned sardines	92	97	98	96	86	84
Butter	92	100	74	100	98	94
Cheese (all types)	90	100	86	87	90	92
Margarine	86	97	67	92	93	89
Lard	67	63	38	81	83	81
Shortening	96	97	98	92	93	100
Salad oils	99	100	100	100	98	100
Soap: bar laundry	99	97	100	100	98	100
flakes and granules	98	97	98	100	98	97
washing powder	94	97	97	98	88	92
<u>Miscellaneous</u>						
Rice	78	70	74	85	86	72

FOODS THAT ARE GENERALLY ADEQUATE (B) — reported in adequate or surplus supply by more than two-thirds of the areas in all five regions. Percentages starred include 10 percent or more "surplus" reports; those double-starred include 25 percent or more. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent Reporting Adequate or Surplus Supplies

<u>Fruits and Vegetables</u>	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>N.E.</u>	<u>M.W.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>S. W.</u>	<u>W.</u>
Canned grapefruit juice	98	100	100	98	98	97
Canned orange juice	99	100	100	98	100	97
Canned orange-grapefruit juice	99	100	100	98	100	97
Canned beans, green & wax	95	100	95	98	98	84
Canned peas	90	80	97	89	86	89
Frozen spinach	88	67	94	86	83	89
Oranges, fresh	96	100	95	100	100	97
Irish potatoes	100	100	100	100*	100*	100
Cabbage	99	100	100	100	98	100

Meats

Cold cuts, bologna, salami, etc.	81	97*	96	81	86	97
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Miscellaneous

Sugar	93	77	97	89	98	100
Eggs	99*	100*	100*	100**	100*	97*
Chicken	90	97	94	85	81	92

FOODS THAT ARE UNBALANCED (U) — reported adequate or surplus in more than two-thirds of the areas in one to four regions, scarce in other regions. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting, and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent Reporting Adequate or Surplus Supplies

<u>Fruits and Vegetables</u>	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>N.E.</u>	<u>M.W.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>S.W.</u>	<u>W.</u>
Canned corn	79	77	95	66	69	84
Canned tomato juice	76	77	75	62	66	84
Frozen beans, snap	74	93	76	64	79	64
Frozen corn, cut	72	77	85	52	74	69
Frozen peas	71	67	62	70	81	78
Dried prunes	80	63	88	77	95	68

Meats, Fish and Dairy Products

Hamburger	28	27	11	6	38	72
Lamb, steaks, chops & roasts	39	17	37	13	62	67
Canned meats	56	63	82	45	33	49
Fish, fresh and frozen	71	83	85	72	64	50
Evaporated milk	39	47	71	8	12	56



## PART III - LOCAL SITUATIONS

Supplies are indicated as follows: A - Scarce; B - Adequate; C - Surplus; N - No Answer. Letters in parentheses after commodities refer to groups shown in Part II: (A) - Generally Scarce; (B) - Generally Adequate; (C) - Unbalanced.

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Product	Balti:	Bos-:	Buf-:	Hart:	New:	ateli:	Port-:	Chi-:	Cleve-:	De-:	Mil-	:lan-	:Charles-
	more,	ton,	falo+fort;	York;	phila,	land,	cago;land,	treit,	kce,Cmaha;	Louis,	.Ga.		
	Ma,	Mass;	N.Y., Conn;	N.Y., Pa.	Me..	Ill.; Ohio							
Beef: steak (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
roasts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
hamburger (U)	A	B	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Veal: steaks, chops & roasts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lamb: steaks, chops & roasts (U)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Pork: ldl., chops, & roasts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
ham & shoulder, fresh (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
ham & shoulder, cured (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
salted fat cuts (A)	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
bacon (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Cold cuts, bologna, etc. (B)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Canned meats (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Fish, fresh and frozen (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Canned: salmon (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
tuna (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
sardines (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Butter (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cheese (all types) (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Evaporated milk (U)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Margarine (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lard (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Shortening (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Salad oils (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Bar laundry soaps (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Flakes & granules (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Washing powder (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sugar (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Eggs, shell (B)	C	B	E	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	B	C	B
Chicken (B)	B	B	B	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Rice (A)	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

PRODUCT	Jack-	son-	ville;	Fla. Ky.	Louis-	Mem-Mo-	Mem-Mo-	Nor-	Fort	Den-Hous-	Or-	Now	Los	Phoe-	Port-lake:	Tran-	Seat-
Beef: steak (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A
roasts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	B	A
hamburger (U)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	B	A	B	B	A
Veal: steaks, chops & roasts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	E	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lamb: steaks, chops & roasts (U)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	B	B	B	A	B	B	A
Pork: loin, chops & roasts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
ham and shoulder, fresh (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
ham and shoulder, cured (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
salted fat cuts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
bacon (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Gold cuts, bologna, etc. (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Canned meats (U)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B
Wish, fresh and frozen (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	A	B	A	B	A	A	B	B
Canned: salmon (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
tuna (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
sardines (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Butter (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cheese (all types) (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Evaporated milk (U)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Margarine (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lard (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Shortening (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Salad oils (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Bar laundry soaps (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Flakes & granules (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Washing powder (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sugar (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Eggs, shell (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Chicken (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Rice (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

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